Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a distributed communications system, a method of dynamically configuring access to services between a wireless remote communications node and a wireless remote communications device comprising:

determining if the wireless remote communications node is communicating with the distributed communications system over a wireless communication link;

configuring the wireless remote communications node as a primary wireless gateway if the wireless remote communications node is communicating with the distributed communications system and configuring the wireless remote communications node as a secondary wireless gateway if the wireless remote communications node is not communicating with the distributed communications system;

initializing the wireless remote communications device; and

dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device to optimally access services in a serial configuration,

wherein dynamically configuring comprises selectively either

configuring the remote communication node as the primary gateway wirelessly coupled to the services while configuring the remote communications device as the secondary gateway wirelessly coupled to the remote communication node, or

configuring the remote communication device as the primary gateway wirelessly coupled to the services while configuring the remote communications node as the secondary gateway wirelessly coupled to the remote communication device.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically configuring to optimally access services comprises dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device to function as either the primary wireless gateway or the secondary wireless gateway respectively to minimize user cost.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically configuring to optimally access services comprises dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device to function as either the primary wireless gateway or the secondary wireless gateway respectively to minimize communication time.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically configuring to optimally access services comprises dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device to function as either the primary wireless gateway or the secondary wireless gateway respectively optimize a wireless communication link.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically configuring comprises allocating the primary wireless gateway and the secondary wireless gateway between the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device based on a user-programmable function.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the services are distributed services.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining if the wireless remote communications node is communicating comprises determining if the wireless remote communications node is communicating with a wireless communications node.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically configuring comprises negotiating for services between the wireless remote communications node and a

plurality of wireless remote communications devices, and wherein the wireless remote communications node is chosen as the secondary wireless gateway and one of the plurality of wireless remote communications devices is chosen as the primary wireless gateway.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically configuring comprises negotiating for services between the wireless remote communications node and a plurality of wireless remote communications devices, wherein the wireless remote communications node is chosen as the primary wireless gateway and one of the plurality of wireless remote communications devices is chosen as the secondary wireless gateway.

12. (previously presented) A method of optimizing access to services in a distributed communications system having a wireless remote communications node and a wireless remote communications device comprising:

determining if the wireless remote communications node is communicating with the distributed communications system over a wireless communication link;

configuring the wireless remote communications node as a primary wireless gateway if the wireless remote communications node is wirelessly communicating with the distributed communications system and configuring the wireless remote communications node as a secondary wireless gateway if the wireless remote communications node is not wirelessly communicating with the distributed communications system;

initializing the wireless remote communications device; and

dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device to optimally access services in a serial configuration, wherein the wireless remote communications node reconfigures between functioning as the primary wireless gateway and the secondary wireless gateway and the wireless remote communications device reconfigures between functioning as the primary wireless gateway and the secondary wireless gateway and vise versa.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein dynamically configuring to optimally access services comprises dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device to function as either the primary wireless gateway or the secondary wireless gateway respectively to minimize user cost.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein dynamically configuring to optimally access services comprises dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device to function as either the primary wireless gateway or the secondary wireless gateway respectively to minimize communication time.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein dynamically configuring to optimally access services comprises dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device to function as either the primary wireless gateway or the secondary wireless gateway respectively optimize a wireless communication link.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein dynamically configuring comprises allocating the primary wireless gateway and the secondary wireless gateway between the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device based on a user-programmable function.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the services are distributed services.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein determining if the wireless remote communications node is communicating comprises determining if the wireless remote communications node is communicating with a wireless communications node.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein dynamically configuring comprises negotiating for services between the wireless remote communications node and a plurality of wireless remote communications devices, and wherein the wireless remote communications node is chosen as the secondary wireless gateway and one of the plurality of wireless remote communications devices is chosen as the primary wireless gateway.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein dynamically configuring comprises negotiating for services between the wireless remote communications node and a plurality of wireless remote communications devices, wherein the wireless remote communications node is chosen as the primary wireless gateway and one of the plurality of wireless remote communications devices is chosen as the secondary wireless gateway.

21. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing computer instructions for instructing a processor to perform a method of dynamically configuring access to services between a wireless remote communications node and a wireless remote communications device, the instructions comprising:

determining if the wireless remote communications node is communicating with the distributed communications system over a wireless communication link;

configuring the wireless remote communications node as a primary wireless gateway if the wireless remote communications node is communicating with the distributed communications system and configuring the wireless remote communications node as a secondary wireless gateway if the wireless remote communications node is not communicating with the distributed communications system;

initializing the wireless remote communications device; and

dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device to optimally access services in a serial configuration,

wherein dynamically configuring comprises selectively either

configuring the remote communication node as the primary gateway wirelessly coupled to the services while configuring the remote communications device as the secondary gateway wirelessly coupled to the remote communication node, or

configuring the remote communication device as the primary gateway wirelessly coupled to the services while configuring the remote communications node as the secondary gateway wirelessly coupled to the remote communication device.

22-23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium in claim 21, wherein dynamically configuring to optimally access services comprises dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device to function as either the primary wireless gateway or the secondary wireless gateway respectively to minimize user cost.

25. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium in claim 21, wherein dynamically configuring to optimally access services comprises dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device to function as either the primary wireless gateway or the secondary wireless gateway respectively to minimize communication time.

26. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium in claim 21, wherein dynamically configuring to optimally access services comprises dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device to function as either the primary wireless gateway or the secondary wireless gateway respectively optimize a wireless communication link.

27. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium in claim 21, wherein dynamically configuring comprises allocating the primary wireless gateway and the secondary wireless gateway between the wireless remote communications node and the wireless remote communications device based on a user-programmable function.

28. (Original) The computer-readable medium in claim 21, wherein the services are distributed services.

29. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium in claim 21, wherein determining if the wireless remote communications node is communicating comprises determining if the wireless remote communications node is communicating with a wireless communications node.

30. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium in claim 21, wherein dynamically configuring comprises negotiating for services between the wireless remote communications node and a plurality of wireless remote communications devices, and wherein the wireless remote communications node is chosen as the secondary wireless gateway and one of the plurality of wireless remote communications devices is chosen as the primary wireless gateway.

31. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium in claim 21, wherein dynamically configuring comprises negotiating for services between the wireless remote communications node and a plurality of wireless remote communications devices, wherein the wireless remote communications node is chosen as the primary wireless gateway and one of the plurality of wireless remote communications devices is chosen as the secondary wireless gateway.

32. (currently amended) In a distributed communications system, a method of dynamically configuring access to services between a wireless remote communications nodes and a plurality of wireless remote communications devices comprising:

determining if the wireless remote communications node is communicating with the distributed communications system over a wireless communication link;

configuring the wireless remote communications node as a primary wireless gateway if the wireless remote communications node is communicating with the distributed communications system and configuring the wireless remote communications node as a secondary wireless gateway if the wireless remote communications node is not communicating with the distributed communications system;

initializing one or more of the plurality of wireless remote communications devices;

negotiating for services between the wireless remote communications node and one or more of the plurality of wireless remote communications devices; and

based on the negotiation, dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and one or more of the wireless remote communications devices to optimally access services in a serial configuration.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein dynamically configuring to optimally access services comprises dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and one or more of the plurality of wireless remote communications devices to function as either the primary wireless gateway or the secondary wireless gateway respectively to minimize user cost.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein dynamically configuring to optimally access services comprises dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and one or more of the plurality of wireless remote communications devices to function as either the primary wireless gateway or the secondary wireless gateway respectively to minimize communication time.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein dynamically configuring to optimally access services comprises dynamically configuring the wireless remote communications node and one or more of the plurality of wireless remote communications devices to function as either the primary wireless gateway or the secondary wireless gateway respectively optimize a wireless communication link.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein dynamically configuring comprises allocating the primary wireless gateway and the secondary wireless gateway between the wireless remote communications node and one or more of the plurality of wireless remote communications devices based on a user-programmable function.